

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 029848
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:PRCHAVEAS:HMN
APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP
AF/W:TWMSMITH
NSC:HRICHARDSON
S/S-O :JETHYDEN

-----046454 041157Z /13

R 040131Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029848

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PGOV, OVIP, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR JOLAOSO'S CONVERSATION WITH
HENRY RICHARDSON, NSC, JANUARY 31

1. SUMMARY: UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS GARBA, AMBASSADOR JOLAOSO CALLED ON NSC STAFFER
HENRY RICHARDSON TO EXPRESS THE FMG'S CONCERN OVER THE
STATE OF PLANNING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO NIGERIA.
RICHARDSON ADVISED JOLAOSO THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN
MADE BUT ONE IS PROBABLE SHORTLY. END SUMMARY.

2. JOLAOSO OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY NOTING THAT HE HAD
JUST RETURNED FROM NEW YORK WHERE HE HAD MET WITH COM-
MISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA. THEY DISCUSSED WHAT
TO DO NEXT SINCE THEY CONTINUE TO WAIT FOR A RESPONSE FROM
THE U.S. SIDE REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S PLANS FOR A VISIT
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TO NIGERIA. THEY DISCUSSED THEIR SITUATION WITH AMBASSADOR
YOUNG AND EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN THAT THE TRIP MIGHT
BE DEFERRED BEYOND APRIL. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SUGGESTED
THAT THEY TALK TO RICHARDSON, AND GARBA INSTRUCTED JOLAOSO
TO DO SO IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

3. JOLAOSO EXPLAINED AGAIN THAT THE MARCH 22 TO APRIL 3 TIME FRAME WHICH WE HAD PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED FOR THE VISIT WAS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT WAS THE EXACT PERIOD WHEN THE FMG WOULD BE INTENSELY INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING NIGERIA'S BUDGET. A VISIT AT THAT TIME WOULD HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY INCONVENIENT AND THE AVERAGE NIGERIAN MIGHT HAVE LINKED THE VISIT WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE BUDGETARY PROCESS. THE FMG IS NOW WAITING FOR A US RESPONSE TO ITS PROPOSAL THAT THE VISIT TAKE PLACE IN APRIL, ANY TIME AFTER THE 3RD. ANY FURTHER DELAY IN THE VISIT WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS; WOULD CREATE THE NEED FOR A GREAT DEAL OF EXPLANATION TO THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE; WOULD PRESENT A VERY BAD INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCE; AND WOULD CAUSE THE MOMENTUM DEVELOPED BY THE OCTOBER VISIT TO THE US OF GENERAL OBASANJO TO DETERIORATE. THE FMG FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEMS WHICH FORCED THE POST-PONEMENT OF THE TRIP IN NOVEMBER. WE NOW ASK THAT THE US UNDERSTAND NIGERIA'S PROBLEMS. JOLAOSO NOTED THAT HE EXPECTS TO BE RETURNING TO LAGOS FOR CONSULTATIONS VERY SHORTLY AND HOPES THAT HE CAN CARRY NEWS OF DEFINITE PLANS FOR THE TRIP WHEN HE GOES.

4. RICHARDSON REPLIED THAT WE HAD DEEPLY REGRETTED THE NECESSITY OF CANCELING OUR ORIGINAL PLANS FOR THE TRIP IN NOVEMBER AND WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE FMG'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE REASONS FOR THAT CANCELLATION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MOMENTUM CREATED BY GENERAL OBASANJO'S OCTOBER

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VISIT IS VERY MUCH ALIVE. THE SHORT ANSWER TO JOLAOSO'S QUESTION IS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT YET MADE A DECISION ABOUT WHEN HE WILL TRAVEL. IT WAS A GOOD BET, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD NOT DECIDE TO DELAY THE TRIP UNTIL THE SUMMER. RICHARDSON PROMISED TO CONTACT JOLAOSO THE MINUTE A DECISION IS MADE. WE ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO THE FMG'S CONCERNS. THE PROBLEM WHICH IS DELAYING A DECISION IS THAT THE PRESIDENT MUST DETERMINE WHETHER IT IS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO BE IN WASHINGTON WHEN CONGRESS RESUMES ITS SESSION IN APRIL. IN THE WAKE OF THE PRESIDENT'S EARLIER TRIP THERE WAS SOME DELAY IN PLANNING FOR THIS TRIP BUT THAT PROCESS IS NOW WELL UNDERWAY, EVEN THOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE A SPECIFIC DATE. IT SHOULD NOT BE LONG BEFORE WE HAVE A DECISION.

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5. JOLAOSO ASKED IF IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT STAY LONGER IN NIGERIA THAN PREVIOUSLY PLANNED. RICHARDSON REPLIED THAT IT WAS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE VISIT MIGHT BE A BIT LONGER.

6. CHANGING THE SUBJECT, RICHARDSON EXPRESSED OUR AP-

PRECIATION FOR THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH GENERAL OBASANJO HAD WITH THE LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS THEY PASSED THROUGH LAGOS ON THEIR WAY TO MALTA AND OBSERVED THAT THE REPORTS WE HAVE INDICATE THAT THE MALTA TALKS ARE GOING WELL. JOLAOSO ASKED IF BISHOP MUZOREWA HAD GONE TO MALTA. RICHARDSON SAID THAT WE DID NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO THAT EFFECT. MORE LIKELY MUZOREWA IS BUYING TIME UNTIL HE CAN SEE WHAT RESULTS FROM THE MALTA TALKS. JOLAOSO NOTED THAT THE NIGERIANS AND MANY OTHER AFRICANS WERE VERY DISTURBED BY DAVID OWEN'S RECENT STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT. AS A RESULT, THE TEMPERS OF MANY AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK WERE VERY SHORT OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS. RICHARDSON REPEATED THAT WE ARE VERY POSITIVE ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN MALTA. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT LETTER TO CONFIDENTIAL

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GENERAL OBASANJO WHICH STATED OUR POSITION OF CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO THE ANGLO/AMERICAN PLAN.

7. JOLAOSO ASKED RICHARDSON IF HE HAD SEEN DONALD WOODS. RICHARDSON REPLIED THAT IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL SEE HIM. JOLAOSO SAID THAT WOODS' RECENT STATEMENT PROVIDED A COMPLETELY NEW FOCUS. HERE WAS A WHITE MAN SPEAKING AS AN AFRICAN AGAINST APARTHEID.

8. AS JOLAOSO SAID GOODBY, RICHARDSON REPEATED HIS PROMISE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM THE MINUTE A DECISION IS MADE ON A DATE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO NIGERIA.

9. FYI: AF HAS ARRANGED WITH RICHARDSON THAT HE WILL CONSULT ON TIMING AND MANNER OF INFORMING FMG SO THAT EMBASSY WILL BE ABLE TO ACT FIRST OR SIMULTANEOUSLY. END FYI. VANCE

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:MCEURVORST

-----067333 070616Z /14

R 070340Z FEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029848

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOL STATE 029848 ACTION LAGOS 4 FEB 78 QUOTE

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END FYI. VANCE

UNQUOTE VANCE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3462253
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970826
Subject: NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR JOLAOSO\ S CONVERSATION WITH HENRY RICHARDSON, NSC, JANUARY 31
TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, NI, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
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